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University of Montana electrical fire causes minimal damage

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local

UM ELECTRICAL FIRE CAUSES MINIMAL DAMAGE

MISSOULA---

Damage was limited "to \$50 or less" Friday morning as result of a fire caused by an electrical failure at the University of Montana, according to James E. Gordon, mechanical engineer for the UM Physical Plant.

Gordon said the Missoula Fire Department responded to a fire call at the UM Natural Science Building shortly after 8 a.m. Friday. The fire was caused "by an electrical failure in the Natural Science Building transformer vault," he said.

According to Gordon, an electrical cutout in the vault disintegrated, resulting in a small fire in the vault, some temporary smoke damage in the Natural Science Building and a power failure in several buildings in the southeast area of the campus.

Power was restored to the buildings at 9:15 a.m. Friday, about an hour after the fire broke out. A Physical Plant crew repaired the damage to the electrical vault.

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